In re WILLIAMS ET AL., Application No. 09/894,199
Amendment A

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of clams will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A method comprising:

receiving a start flow control signal;

receiving a stop flow control signal;

determining a timing difference between the receipt of the start flow control signal and the stop flow control signal; and

determining an initial rate based at least in part on the determined difference.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further ~~comprising~~ comprising: comparing the timing difference to a predetermined threshold to produce a comparison result; and adjusting the initial rate based at least in part on the comparison result.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim 2, wherein said adjusting the initial rate includes increasing the initial rate if the timing difference was less than the predetermined threshold.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim 2, wherein said adjusting the initial rate includes decreasing the initial rate if the timing difference was greater than the predetermined threshold.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further ~~comprising~~ comprising: setting a current rate to the initial rate; and increasing the current rate.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of claim 5, wherein said increasing the current rate includes doubling a value of the current rate.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 6, further ~~comprising~~ comprising: comparing the current rate to a maximum rate, and setting the current rate to the maximum rate.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 5, further comprising generating a set of tokens based on the value of the current rate.

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (original): A method comprising:

receiving a start flow control signal;

receiving a stop flow control signal;

determining a timing difference between the receipt of the start flow control signal and the stop flow control signal; and

exponentially decreasing an initial rate if the time difference is greater than the predetermined threshold.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 10, further comprising multiplicatively increasing the initial rate if the difference is less than a predetermined threshold.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 11, wherein said multiplicatively increasing the initial rate includes doubling the initial rate.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 10, wherein said exponentially decreasing the initial rate includes raising the initial rate to a one-half power.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 10, further comprising multiplicatively increasing a current traffic rate.

Claims 15-17 canceled

Claim 18 (original): An adaptive rate control mechanism comprising:

a rate controller; and

a timing mechanism;

wherein the rate controller receives a start flow control signal and a stop flow control signal, determines a timing difference between the receipt of the start flow control signal and the stop flow control signal, and determines an initial rate based at least in part on the determined difference.

Claim 19 (original): The adaptive rate control mechanism of claim 18, wherein the rate controller compares the timing difference to a predetermined threshold to produce a comparison result, and adjusts the initial rate based at least in part on the comparison result.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The adaptive rate control mechanism of claim 19, wherein said adjusting the initial rate includes increasing the initial rate if the timing difference was less than the predetermined threshold.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The adaptive rate control mechanism of claim 19, wherein said adjusting the initial rate includes decreasing the initial rate if the timing difference was greater than the predetermined threshold.

Claim 22 (original): The adaptive rate control mechanism of claim 18, wherein the rate controller sets a current rate to the initial rate, and increases the current rate.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The adaptive rate control mechanism of claim 22, wherein said increasing the current rate includes doubling a value of the current rate.

Claim 24 (original): The adaptive rate control mechanism of claim 23, wherein the rate controller compares the current rate to a maximum rate, and sets the current rate to the maximum rate.

Claim 25 (original): The adaptive rate control mechanism of claim 22, wherein the rate controller generates a set of tokens based on the value of the current rate.

Claim 26 (original): An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a start flow control signal;

means for receiving a stop flow control signal;

means for determining a timing difference between the receipt of the start flow control signal and the stop flow control signal; and

means for determining an initial rate based at least in part on the determined difference.

Claim 27 (original): The apparatus of claim 26, comprising means for comparing the timing difference to a predetermined threshold to produce a comparison result; and means for adjusting the initial rate based at least in part on the comparison result.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said means for adjusting the initial rate includes means for increasing the initial rate if the timing difference was less than the predetermined threshold.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said means for adjusting the initial rate includes means for decreasing the initial rate if the timing difference was greater than the predetermined threshold.

Claim 30 (original): The apparatus of claim 26, comprising means for setting a current rate to the initial rate; and means for increasing the current rate.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said means for increasing the current rate includes means for doubling a value of the current rate.

Claim 32 (original): The apparatus of claim 31, comprising means for comparing the current rate to a maximum rate, and means for setting the current rate to the maximum rate.

Claim 33 (original): The apparatus of claim 30, comprising means for generating a set of tokens based on the value of the current rate.

Claim 34 (new): One or more computer-readable media containing computer-executable instructions for performing operations, said operations comprising:

receiving a start flow control signal;

receiving a stop flow control signal;

determining a timing difference between the receipt of the start flow control signal and the stop flow control signal; and

determining an initial rate based at least in part on the determined difference.

Claim 35 (new): The computer-readable media of claim 34, wherein said operations further comprise: comparing the timing difference to a predetermined threshold to produce a comparison result; and adjusting the initial rate based at least in part on the comparison result.

Claim 36 (new): The computer-readable media of claim 35, wherein said adjusting the initial rate includes increasing the initial rate if the timing difference was less than the predetermined threshold.

Claim 37 (new): The computer-readable media of claim 35, wherein said adjusting the initial rate includes decreasing the initial rate if the timing difference was greater than the predetermined threshold.

Claim 38 (new): The computer-readable media of claim 34, wherein said operations further comprise: setting a current rate to the initial rate; and increasing the current rate.

Claim 39 (new): The computer-readable media of claim 38, wherein said increasing the current rate includes doubling a value of the current rate.

Claim 40 (new): The computer-readable media of claim 39, wherein said operations further comprise: comparing the current rate to a maximum rate, and setting the current rate to the maximum rate.

Claim 41 (new): The computer-readable media of claim 38, wherein said operations further comprise generating a set of tokens based on the value of the current rate.

Claim 42 (new): One or more computer-readable media containing computer-executable instructions for performing operations, said operations comprising:

receiving a start flow control signal;

receiving a stop flow control signal;

determining a timing difference between the receipt of the start flow control signal and the stop flow control signal; and

exponentially decreasing an initial rate if the time difference is greater than the predetermined threshold.

Claim 43 (new): The computer-readable media of claim 42, wherein said operations further comprise multiplicatively increasing the initial rate if the difference is less than a predetermined threshold.

Claim 44 (new): The computer-readable media of claim 43, wherein said multiplicatively increasing the initial rate includes doubling the initial rate.

Claim 45 (new): The computer-readable media of claim 42, wherein said exponentially decreasing the initial rate includes raising the initial rate to a one-half power.

Claim 46 (new): The computer-readable media of claim 42, wherein said operations further comprise multiplicatively increasing a current traffic rate.